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The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

National Intelligence Council

NIC #05004-84
30 August 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting

Representatives of the Intelligence Community met on 22 August 1984 to consider the attached subjects.

Next month's Warning and Forecast Meeting will be held on 19 September 1984 at 1400 hours. Please phone your attendance intentions to [redacted] noon on 18 September 1984, and have your clearances verified to us by your security office.

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National Intelligence Officer
for East Asia

Attachment:
Warning and Forecast Report

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22 August 1984 East Asia Warning and Forecast Meeting

The A/NIO/EA began the meeting by providing a brief overview of areas of current activity in Asia: the New Zealand election, the implications of Labor victory for antinuclear sentiment in the Pacific and the possible weakening of ANZUS; the North-South Korea dialogue and the impact of recent North Korean troop movements towards the DMZ; and failure of the recent demonstrations in the Philippines to develop as fully as the opposition had hoped. In all three cases, the A/NIO pointed out, US policy makers are working to develop responses. The Intelligence Community will be providing support to these efforts in the weeks ahead.

I. Sino-Vietnamese Border Situation

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holdings south of the border are taking on a degree of permanence.

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[redacted] These suggest troop rotations in preparation for a long stay rather than a build-up in preparation for increased levels of activity. During their 1979 campaign the Chinese discovered that because troops lacked combat experience they performed poorly. Accordingly, the Chinese appear to be using this opportunity to give combat experience to additional units.

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Prediction: We expect Chinese occupancy of these hilltops in North Vietnam to continue, and the current level of combat activity to continue throughout the winter.

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II. North Korea -- Recently we have discovered that at least three North Korean divisions are dismantling their existing sites and moving in the direction of the DMZ. Other rear units also appear to be on the move, though not necessarily southward. Forward units are remaining in place. There is no untoward activity noted elsewhere in the country.

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Consequently, we will need a complete reassessment of the order of battle after the move is completed--who stayed in their original location, who went forward and where. We expect these moves to be completed before winter sets in.

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Prediction: We believe this move is an effort by North Korea to concentrate its forces near the DMZ so as to match the deployment patterns of the South. Presently all but one of South Korea's division are within 90 kilometers of the DMZ, whereas the North's are scattered up to 300 miles from the DMZ. This move will increase the North's ability to respond to attack from the South, more importantly, it will permit them to launch an attack against the South with reduced warning time.

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[Redacted]

IV. The Philippines:

The Recent Demonstrations -- A smaller than expected turnout for the Aquino assassination demonstrations in Manila caused the gathering to take on the characteristics of a non-event. Nevertheless, it was a good showing and probably a precursor for numerous other demonstrations that will take place between now and the anniversary of the imposition of martial law on 21 September. The Supreme Court ruling granting permission for the demonstration, after the Marcos government had denied a permit, contributed to the peacefulness of the rallies.

Prediction: The demonstrations will have little effect on how Marcos operates in the months ahead. He already has had the new legislature change laws making it more difficult for the opposition to impeach him. The fact that the opposition is operating within the parliamentary context actually gives Marcos some leverage in that it provides an impression of an open society operating through democratic institutions. Of more concern is the outlook for Marcos's health.

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